

**October 1, 2009**

**WASHINGTON, DC** - Today, U.S. Rep. Michael A. Arcuri (NY-24) voted to approve \$1.5 million for the Northern Border Regional Commission in the final Fiscal Year 2010 Energy and Water Development Appropriations Bill, which will provide for increased collaboration between Northern Border states to promote economic development and improve the overall quality of life throughout the Northeast region, including Oneida, Herkimer, Cayuga and Seneca counties. The Commission will use a "bottom-up" approach where local development districts, non-profit organizations, and others bring project ideas and priorities to the Commission from the local level. It will also make grants for projects that are consistent with those locally-developed economic development plans. Arcuri fought to triple the funding for the Northern Border Regional Commission from the \$500,000 that was included in the initial draft of the bill.

"These funds will make the Northern Border Regional Commission a reality, and begin to fund economic development projects and create new jobs," **Arcuri said**, "I join my colleagues from the Northeast states that the Commission covers to work towards economic growth and job creation in a region that has such great potential. Joining together with regions of other states that have similar needs will make for a strong and united front for the future."

## Background

The legislation, H.R. 3183, the Fiscal Year 2010 Energy and Water Appropriations Act, originally included only \$500,000 in funding for the Northern Border Regional Commission. However, the bill was successfully amended as a result of efforts led by Rep. Arcuri to increase the funding level. The final House-Senate agreement on H.R. 3183 was passed by the House of Representatives today with Arcuri voting in favor. If agreed to by the Senate and signed into law, these will be the first funds made available to fund the Commission.

Arcuri was joined by his colleagues U.S. Reps. Mike Michaud (ME-2), Chellie Pingree (ME-1),

Paul Hodes (NH-2), Carol Shea-Porter (NH-1) and Peter Welch (VT) in the development of the Northern Border Regional Commission, which was established as part of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (commonly known as the Farm Bill) last year.

The final conference report awaits approval in the Senate, which is expected next week, before going to the President to be signed into a law.

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